

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 545, 552, 561, 573, 574, 576, 577, 580, 602, 618, 644, 649, 650, and 724, without prejudice, please add new Claims 782-795, and please amend Claims 544, 547, 548, 550, 551, 559, 560, 564, 567, 570, 571, 578, 579, 581, 583-589, 591-593, 597, 599, 601, 604, 605, 607-609, 614, 616, 617, 621, 624, 627, 628, 630-637, 640-646, 648, 649, 654, 656, 658-661, 664, 665, 669, 682, 683, 686, 689, 691, 693-699, 704, 707, 709, 710, 714, 718, 731, 732, 735, 738, 740, 742, 743-748, 756, 759, 760, 762, 769, 774, 776, and 780, as provided in the following Listing of Claims:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-543 (Canceled).

Claim 544. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving information regarding a selection of an employee benefit, wherein an employee or a benefit beneficiary is previously enrolled in the employee benefit or an employee

or a benefit beneficiary is provided with the employee benefit without enrolling in the employee benefit;

processing the information regarding a selection of the employee benefit;

providing information or a link to information for making a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is made pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises ~~at least one of healthcare insurance information, disability insurance information, and life insurance information, and~~ at least one of vacation time information, personal time information, and sick time information;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of ~~the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit,~~ an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

recording or storing information regarding the providing of the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time;

deducting the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, from an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, available before the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit was received; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 545. (Canceled)

Claim 546. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

providing the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 547. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for ~~an~~ a second employee benefit or a subscription to ~~an~~ a second employee benefit.

Claim 548. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing a request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 549. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of an enhanced employee benefit or an upgraded employee benefit.

Claim 550. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of ~~an~~ a second employee benefit or a purchase of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, pursuant to ~~an~~ a second employee benefit.

Claim 551. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a change to ~~an~~ the employee benefit or to a second employee benefit.

Claim 552. (Canceled)

Claim 553. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the communication device is at least one of a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a handheld computer, and a personal communication device.

Claim 554. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 555. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the communication device is a wireless device.

Claim 556. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the communication device is a kiosk.

Claim 557. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein at least one of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted on or over at least one of the Internet

and the World Wide Web, and the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 558. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over an intranet.

Claim 559. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the processing device is at least one of a central processing unit, a ~~network~~ computer in a network, a server computer, and an Internet server computer.

Claim 560. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information is at least one of automatically updated and automatically updated in real-time.

Claim 561. (Canceled)

Claim 562. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits

information is associated with an independent contractor relationship.

Claim 563. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase pursuant to an employee discount benefit or a buying service benefit.

Claim 564. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for a class or a course or processing information regarding a request for a tuition reimbursement.

Claim 565. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a selection of a primary care provider, a request for a referral authorization for a specialist, a status of a healthcare insurance claim, a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a status of a



disability insurance claim, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a status of a life insurance claim, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 566. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a placing of an order with a goods provider or a service provider, a registration with a goods provider or a service provider, a subscription to a goods provider or a service provider, and a status of a pending order.

Claim 567. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

providing information to ~~an~~ the employer regarding a transaction between ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee and at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, and a life insurance benefit provider.

Claim 568. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the processing device is linked to at least one of an employer computer, a healthcare insurance provider computer, a disability insurance provider computer, a life insurance provider computer, a credit union or banking services provider computer, a pension benefit provider computer, a retirement benefit provider computer, and an employee discount provider computer.

Claim 569. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of accessing a credit union account balance or a bank account balance, authorizing or terminating a payroll deduction, ordering a check or checks, making a payment, stopping a payment, applying for a loan or a mortgage, purchasing a certificate of deposit or a bond, providing financial advice, providing information regarding a benefit offered by a credit union or a banking service provider, providing information regarding a special rate loan offered to an employee or employees, applying for a mortgage, purchasing at least one of a stock, a bond, and a mutual fund, providing a forecast for a savings account, providing information regarding a company

stock purchase made through a company-sponsored plan, and providing information regarding a savings bond purchasing plan.

Claim 570. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

storing information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by a benefit provider, and information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit associated with the employer, a second an employer, the employee or a second an employee;

processing the information regarding the at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, with the information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit;

identifying a benefit provider for providing at least one of a benefit and benefit information for the requirement for a benefit or for the need for a benefit;

generating a second message containing information regarding the benefit provider, wherein the second message

contains information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employer, a second employer, the employee, and a second employee.

Claim 571. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

receiving a request for employee benefit information;

processing the request for employee benefit information;

generating a second message in response to the request for employee benefit information; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, a benefit administrator, and a second employee.

Claim 572. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 571, wherein the second message contains a link or a hyperlink to a computer associated with the processing device or to a computer associated with a benefit provider.

Claim 573. (Canceled)

Claim 574. (Canceled)

Claim 575. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 571, wherein the employee benefit information, or the second message, contains information regarding at least one of an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, and a stock option benefit.

Claim 576. (Canceled)

Claim 577. (Canceled)

Claim 578. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains

information regarding a providing of a an amount of vacation time ~~benefit~~.

Claim 579. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a an amount of personal time ~~benefit~~ or a an amount of sick time ~~benefit~~.

Claim 580. (Canceled)

Claim 581. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 571, wherein the employee benefits information or the second message contains information regarding at least one of an employee discount, a buying service, and a buying service which participates in an employee benefit program.

Claim 582. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 571, wherein the second message contains a link to a computer associated with at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, a life insurance benefit provider, a pension benefit provider, a retirement benefit provider, an employee

discount benefit provider, and a buying service benefit provider.

Claim 583. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an employee benefit associated with ~~an~~ the employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a previous employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with the employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by ~~a-current~~ the employer pursuant to ~~an~~ the current employment relationship and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the ~~current~~ employer.

Claim 584. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of an employment relationship with the employer.

Claim 585. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information for pooling employees from ~~different~~ a plurality of employers to obtain an employee benefit or employee benefits for the employees of the ~~different~~ plurality employers.

Claim 586. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

providing information to ~~an~~ the employer regarding a transaction between the employee and a benefit provider.

Claim 587. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

processing information for allowing ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee to utilize monies or credits provided by ~~an~~ the employer to obtain ~~an~~ a second employee benefit from a benefit provider.

Claim 588. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:



processing information for utilizing an employer-provided at least one of a fund, money, and a credit, to create an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of an employment relationship with the employer.

Claim 589. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

transmitting information regarding at least one of a change to a benefit, a change to a benefit account, an activity regarding a benefit account, an offering of a benefit, a posting of an offer to sell a benefit, an advertisement for a benefit, a posting of benefit information, a payment to a deferred income savings account or a pension account, and a payment of a benefit claim, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 590. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an intelligent agent, a software agent, and a mobile agent, at least one of to obtain information regarding at least one of a benefit, benefit information availability, a status of a benefit, a status of a benefit claim, and a benefit provider, to request a benefit or benefits information, to request a service, to purchase a good or a service, to perform an action for or on behalf of at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, a benefit administrator, and a benefit provider, to report a finding or an action taken, and to purchase a benefit.

Claim 591. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

transmitting at least one of a benefit request form, a benefit information request form, a claim submission form, and a claim status form, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 592. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises at least one of stock option benefit

information, employee stock ownership benefit information, and profit sharing benefit information, ~~and further wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of at least one of a stock option benefit, an employee stock ownership benefit, and a profit sharing benefit.~~

Claim 593. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises at least one of credit union benefit information, educational assistance benefit information, tuition reimbursement benefit information, employee discount benefit information, and buying service benefit information, ~~and further wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of at least one of a credit union benefit, an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, an employee discount benefit, and a buying service benefit.~~

Claim 594. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message is contained in or transmitted in at least one of an electronic mail transmission, an electronic transmission, a facsimile transmission, a telephone call, a telephone message, a voice message, a pager message, and a beeper message.

Claim 595. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an electronic power of attorney form, an electronic authorization, an electronic signature, and a digital signature, to file at least one of a medical claim form, a dental claim form, a healthcare claim form, an insurance claim form, a financial transaction form, a financial claim form, a goods order form or a service order form, and a benefit request form.

Claim 596. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 597. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, further comprising:

effectuating a payment pursuant to ~~an~~ the employee benefit in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit or effectuating a payment pursuant to a second employee benefit in response to a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 598. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over a cable television network.

Claim 599. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted from the communication device or from a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 600. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 601. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving information regarding a selection of an employee benefit, wherein an employee or a benefit beneficiary is previously enrolled in the employee benefit or an employee

or a benefit beneficiary is provided with the employee benefit without enrolling in the employee benefit;

processing the information regarding a selection of the employee benefit;

providing information or a link to information for making a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is made pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises at least one of pension benefit information and retirement benefit information, and at least one of vacation time information, personal time information, and sick time information;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of ~~the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit,~~ an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

recording or storing information regarding the providing of the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time;

deducting the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, from an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, available before the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit was received; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 602. (Canceled)

Claim 603. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

providing the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 604. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for ~~an~~ a second employee benefit or a subscription to ~~an~~ a second employee benefit.

Claim 605. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing a request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and



transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 606. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of an enhanced employee benefit or an upgraded employee benefit.

Claim 607. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of ~~an~~ a second employee benefit or a purchase of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, pursuant to ~~an~~ a second employee benefit.

Claim 608. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a change to ~~an~~ the employee benefit or to a second employee benefit.

Claim 609. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding at least one of ~~a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit,~~ an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, ~~and a stock option benefit, and a profit sharing benefit,~~ and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee

benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is at least one of an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, a stock option benefit, and a profit sharing benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 610. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the communication device is at least one of a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a handheld computer, and a personal communication device.

Claim 611. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 612. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the communication device is a wireless device.

Claim 613. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the communication device is a kiosk.

Claim 614. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein at least one of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, and the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 615. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over an intranet.

Claim 616. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the processing device is at least one of a central processing unit, a ~~network~~ computer in a network, a server computer, and an Internet server computer.

Claim 617. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information is at least one of automatically updated and automatically updated in real-time.

Claim 618. (Canceled)

Claim 619. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information is associated with an independent contractor relationship.

Claim 620. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase pursuant to an employee discount benefit or a buying service benefit.

Claim 621. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for a class or a course or processing information regarding a request for a tuition reimbursement.

Claim 622. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a selection of a primary care provider, a request for a referral authorization for a specialist, a status of a healthcare insurance claim, a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a status of a disability insurance claim, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a status of a life insurance claim, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 623. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a placing of an order with a goods provider or a service provider, a registration with a goods provider or a service provider, a subscription to a goods provider or a service provider, and a status of a pending order.

Claim 624. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

providing information to ~~an~~ the employer regarding a transaction between ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee and at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, and a life insurance benefit provider.

Claim 625. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the processing device is linked to at least one of an employer computer, a healthcare insurance provider computer, a disability insurance provider computer, a life insurance provider computer, a credit union or banking services provider computer, a pension benefit provider computer, a retirement benefit provider computer, and an employee discount provider computer.

Claim 626. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of accessing a credit union account balance or a bank account balance, authorizing or terminating a payroll deduction, ordering a check or checks, making a payment, stopping a payment, applying for a loan or a mortgage, purchasing a certificate of deposit or a bond, providing financial advice, providing information regarding a benefit offered by a credit union or a banking service provider, providing information regarding a special rate loan offered to an employee or employees, applying for a mortgage, purchasing at least one of a stock, a bond, and a mutual fund, providing a forecast for a savings account, providing information regarding a company stock purchase made through a company-sponsored plan, and providing information regarding a savings bond purchasing plan.

Claim 627. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

storing information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by a benefit provider, and information regarding a requirement



for a benefit or a need for a benefit associated with ~~an~~ the employer, a second employer, the employee or an a second employee;

processing the information regarding the at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, with the information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit;

identifying a benefit provider for providing at least one of a benefit and benefit information for the requirement for a benefit or for the need for a benefit;

generating a second message containing information regarding the benefit provider, wherein the second message contains information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employer, a second employer, the employee, and a second employee.

Claim 628. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

receiving a request for employee benefit information;

processing the request for employee benefit information;

generating a second message in response to the request for employee benefit information; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, a benefit administrator, and a second employee.

Claim 629. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 628, wherein the second message contains a link or a hyperlink to a computer associated with the processing device or to a benefit provider computer.

Claim 630. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises healthcare insurance

~~information, and further wherein the message contains~~  
~~information regarding a providing of a healthcare insurance~~  
~~benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to a healthcare~~  
~~insurance benefit, and further wherein the computer-implemented~~  
method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a  
second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second  
request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an  
employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second  
employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or  
the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second  
request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an  
employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least  
one of information regarding a providing of the employee  
benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an  
employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or  
a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit  
requested or claimed in the second request for an employee  
benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein

the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request  
for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee  
benefit is a health insurance benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication  
device or to a second communication device associated with at  
least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit  
beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 631. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 628, wherein the employee benefits information or the second message, contains information regarding at least one of a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, and a sick time benefit.

Claim 632. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 628, wherein the employee benefits information or the second message, contains information regarding at least one of an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, and a stock option benefit.

Claim 633. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises disability insurance information, ~~and further wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a disability insurance benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to a disability insurance benefit,~~ and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or

a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a disability insurance benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 634. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises life insurance information, ~~and further wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a life insurance benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to a life insurance benefit, and further wherein the computer-implemented method~~ further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an

employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a life insurance benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 635. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a an amount of vacation time ~~benefit~~.

Claim 636. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a an amount of personal time ~~benefit~~ or a an amount of sick time ~~benefit~~.

Claim 637. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

~~wherein the message contains information regarding a~~  
~~providing of~~ providing a pension benefit or a retirement benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to a pension benefit or a retirement benefit.

Claim 638. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 628, wherein the employee benefit information or the second message contains information regarding at least one of an employee discount, a buying service, and a buying service which participates in an employee benefit program.



Claim 639. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 628, wherein the second message contains a link to a computer associated with at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, a life insurance benefit provider, a pension benefit provider, a retirement benefit provider, an employee discount benefit provider, and a buying service benefit provider.

Claim 640. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with the employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship with a previous employer is paid for or provided at least in part by ~~a current~~ the employer pursuant to ~~an~~ the current employment relationship and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the ~~current~~ employer.

Claim 641. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an

individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of an employment relationship with the employer.

Claim 642. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information for allowing ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee to utilize monies or credits provided by ~~an~~ the employer to obtain ~~an~~ a second employee benefit from a benefit provider.

Claim 643. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

providing information to a benefit provider regarding ~~an~~ any employee who has upgraded a benefit or utilized at least one of a benefit offer, an employee discount benefit, and a buying service benefit.

Claim 644. (Canceled)

Claim 645. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

processing information for utilizing an employer-provided at least one of a fund, money, and a credit, to create an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of an employment relationship with the employer.

Claim 646. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

transmitting information regarding at least one of a change to a benefit, a change to a benefit account, an activity regarding a benefit account, an offering of a benefit, a posting of an offer to sell a benefit, an advertisement for a benefit, a posting of benefit information, a payment to a deferred income savings account or a pension account, and a payment of a benefit claim, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 647. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an intelligent agent, a software agent, and a mobile agent, at least one of to obtain information regarding at least one of a benefit, benefit information availability, a status of a benefit, a status of a benefit claim, and a benefit provider, to request benefit information, to request a service, to purchase a good or a service, to perform an action for or on behalf of at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, a benefit administrator, and a benefit provider, to report a finding or an action taken, and to purchase a benefit.

Claim 648. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

transmitting at least one of a benefit request form, a benefit information request form, a claim submission form, and a claim status form, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 649. (Canceled)

Claim 650. (Canceled)

Claim 651. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message is contained or transmitted in at least one of an electronic mail transmission, an electronic transmission, a facsimile transmission, a telephone call, a telephone message, a voice message, a pager message, and a beeper message.

Claim 652. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an electronic power of attorney form, an electronic authorization, an electronic signature, and a digital signature, to file at least one of a medical claim form, a dental claim form, a healthcare claim form, an insurance claim form, a financial transaction form, a financial claim form, a goods order form or a service order form, and a benefit request form.

Claim 653. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 654. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, further comprising:

effectuating a payment pursuant to ~~an~~ the employee benefit in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit or effectuating a payment pursuant to a second employee benefit in response to a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 655. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over a cable television network.

Claim 656. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted from the communication device or from a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 657. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 601, wherein the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 658. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A  
computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving information regarding a selection of an  
employee benefit, wherein an employee or a benefit beneficiary  
is previously enrolled in the employee benefit or an employee  
or a benefit beneficiary is provided with the employee benefit  
without enrolling in the employee benefit;

processing the information regarding a selection of the  
employee benefit;

providing information or a link to information for  
making a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an  
employee benefit pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim  
for an employee benefit, wherein the request for an employee  
benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is made pursuant  
to or under the employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the  
claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using  
employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory

device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises at least one of healthcare insurance information, disability insurance information, and life insurance information, at least one of pension benefit information and retirement benefit information, and at least one of vacation time information, personal time information, and sick time information;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of ~~the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit~~ an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

recording or storing information regarding the providing of the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time;

deducting the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, from an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, available before



the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an  
employee benefit was received; and

transmitting the message to a communication device  
associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit  
beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 659. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A  
computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving information regarding a selection of an  
employee benefit, wherein an employee or a benefit beneficiary  
is previously enrolled in the employee benefit or an employee  
or a benefit beneficiary is provided with the employee benefit  
without enrolling in the employee benefit;

processing the information regarding a selection of the  
employee benefit;

providing information or a link to information for  
making a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an  
employee benefit pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is made pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises at least one of healthcare insurance information, disability insurance information, and life insurance information, and at least one of vacation time information, personal time information, sick time information, educational assistance benefit information, tuition reimbursement benefit information, credit union benefit information, employee discount program benefit information, buying service benefit information, and stock option benefit information;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of ~~the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit~~ an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time,

in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim  
for an employee benefit;

recording or storing information regarding the providing  
of the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time,  
and sick time;

deducting the amount of at least one of vacation time,  
personal time, and sick time, from an amount of at least one of  
vacation time, personal time, and sick time, available before  
the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an  
employee benefit was received; and

transmitting the message to a communication device  
associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit  
beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 660. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A  
computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving information regarding a selection of an  
employee benefit, wherein an employee or a benefit beneficiary  
is previously enrolled in the employee benefit or an employee

or a benefit beneficiary is provided with the employee benefit without enrolling in the employee benefit;

processing the information regarding a selection of the employee benefit;

providing information or a link to information for making a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is made pursuant to or under the employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises at least one of pension benefit information and retirement benefit information, and at least one of vacation time information, personal time information, sick time information, educational assistance benefit information, tuition reimbursement benefit information, credit union benefit information, employee

discount program benefit information, buying service benefit information, and stock option benefit information;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of ~~the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit~~ an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

recording or storing information regarding the providing of the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time;

deducting the amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, from an amount of at least one of vacation time, personal time, and sick time, available before the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit was received; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, the benefit beneficiary, an employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 661. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving a request for information regarding an employee benefit in an employee benefits account, wherein the employee benefits account includes at least one of healthcare insurance, disability insurance, and life insurance, and at least one of a retirement benefit account and a pension benefit account;

processing the request for information regarding an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises information regarding an employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a first employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with a second employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship with the first employer is paid for or

provided at least in part by a ~~current~~ the second employer in or pursuant to an the current employment relationship with the second employer and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the ~~current~~ second employer;

generating a message in response to the request for information regarding an employee benefit, wherein the message contains a response to the request for information regarding an employee benefit; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, ~~an~~ the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 662. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device.

Claim 663. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 662, wherein the second message contains information regarding a providing of an employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 664. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 662, further comprising:

providing the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit or providing a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 665. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:



processing information regarding a registration for ~~an~~  
the employee benefit or a second employee benefit or processing  
information regarding a subscription to an employee benefit or  
a second employee benefit.

Claim 666. (Previously Presented) The computer-  
implemented method of Claim 662, further comprising:

processing a request for a status of the request for an  
employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

generating a third message in response to the request  
for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the  
claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the third message to the communication  
device.

Claim 667. (Previously Presented) The computer-  
implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of an  
enhanced employee benefit or an upgraded employee benefit.

Claim 668. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of an employee benefit or a purchase of at least one of a good, a product, and a service, pursuant to an employee benefit.

Claim 669. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a change to ~~an~~ the employee benefit or a change to a second employee benefit.

Claim 670. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a healthcare insurance benefit.

Claim 671. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a disability insurance benefit.

Claim 672. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a life insurance benefit.

Claim 673. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a pension benefit or a retirement benefit.

Claim 674. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the message contains information regarding at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a pension benefit, and a retirement benefit.

Claim 675. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises at least one of educational assistance benefit information, tuition reimbursement benefit information, credit union benefit information, employee discount program benefit information, buying service benefit information, and stock option benefit information, and further wherein the message contains information regarding at least one of an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, and a stock option benefit.

Claim 676. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the communication device is at least one of a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a handheld computer, and a personal communication device.

Claim 677. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 678. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the communication device is a wireless device.

Claim 679. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the communication device is a kiosk.

Claim 680. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein at least one of the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, the request for information regarding an employee benefit is transmitted on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, and

the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 681. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over an intranet.

Claim 682. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the processing device is at least one of a central processing unit, a computer in a network computer, a server computer, and an Internet server computer.

Claim 683. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefits information is at least one of automatically updated and updated in real-time.

Claim 684. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee is an independent contractor.

Claim 685. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase pursuant to an employee discount benefit or a buying service benefit.

Claim 686. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for a class or a course or processing information regarding a request for a tuition reimbursement.

Claim 687. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a selection of a primary care provider, a request for a referral authorization for a specialist, a status of a healthcare insurance claim, a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a status of a disability insurance claim, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a status of a life insurance claim, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 688. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a placing of an order with a goods provider or a service provider, a registration with a goods provider or a service provider, a subscription to a goods provider or a service provider, and a status of a pending order.

Claim 689. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

providing information to ~~an~~ the second employer regarding a transaction between the employee and at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, and a life insurance benefit provider.

Claim 690. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the processing device is linked to at least one of an employer computer, a healthcare insurance provider computer, a disability insurance provider computer, a life insurance provider computer, a credit union or banking services provider computer, a pension benefit provider

computer, a retirement benefit provider computer, and an employee discount provider computer.

Claim 691. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

storing information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by a benefit provider, and information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit associated with ~~an~~ the employer or ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee;

processing the information regarding the at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, with the information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit;

identifying a benefit provider for providing at least one of a benefit and benefit information for the requirement for a benefit or for the need for a benefit;

generating a second message containing information regarding the benefit provider, wherein the second message contains information regarding at least one of a benefit, a



benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employer, the employee, and the second employee.

Claim 692. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the message contains a link or a hyperlink to a computer associated with the processing device or to a benefit provider computer.

Claim 693. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of ~~an~~ the previous employment relationship or the current employment relationship.

Claim 694. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information for pooling employees from ~~different~~ a plurality of employers to obtain an employee benefit for the employees of the ~~different~~ the plurality of employers.

Claim 695. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

providing information to a benefit provider regarding ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee who has upgraded a benefit or utilized at least one of a benefit offer, an employee discount benefit, and a buying service benefit.

Claim 696. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information for allowing ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee to utilize monies or credits provided by ~~an~~ the second employer to obtain an employee benefit from a benefit provider, or processing information for allowing ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee to utilize funds provided by ~~an~~ the second employer to make a payment to a benefit provider.

Claim 697. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

processing information for allowing ~~an~~ the employee to create an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of the previous employment relationship and the current ~~an~~ employment relationship, and further wherein the employee pays for or purchases a benefit in whole or in part with at least one of funds, monies, and credits, provided by ~~an~~ the first employer or the second employer.

Claim 698. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an intelligent agent, a software agent, and a mobile agent, at least one of to obtain information regarding at least one of a benefit, benefit information availability, a status of a benefit, a status of a benefit claim, and a benefit provider, to request a benefit information, to request a service, to purchase a good or a service, to perform an action for or on behalf of at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, ~~an employer~~ the first employer or the second employer, a benefit administrator, and a

benefit provider, to report a finding or an action taken, and to purchase a benefit.

Claim 699. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

transmitting at least one of a benefit request form, a benefit information request form, a claim submission form, and a claim status form, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 700. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

transmitting information regarding at least one of a change to a benefit, a change to a benefit account, an activity regarding a benefit account, an offering of a benefit, a posting of an offer to sell a benefit, an advertisement for a benefit, a posting of benefit information, a payment to a deferred income savings account or a pension account, and a payment of a benefit claim.

Claim 701. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the message is contained or transmitted in at least one of an electronic mail transmission, an electronic transmission, a facsimile transmission, a telephone call, a telephone message, a voice message, a pager message, and a beeper message.

Claim 702. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an electronic power of attorney form, an electronic authorization, an electronic signature, and a digital signature, to file at least one of a medical claim form, a dental claim form, a healthcare claim form, an insurance claim form, a financial transaction form, a financial claim form, a goods order form or a service order form, and a benefit request form.

Claim 703. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 704. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, further comprising:

effectuating a payment pursuant to an employee benefit in response to a request for an employee benefit or a claim for ~~an~~ the employee benefit or a second employee benefit.

Claim 705. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over a cable television network.

Claim 706. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the request for information regarding an employee benefit is transmitted from the communication device.

Claim 707. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefits information comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account is utilized by the employee to retain a benefit with a benefit provider independently of ~~an employment~~ the previous employment relationship or the current employment relationship.

Claim 708. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 707, wherein the individual benefits account includes at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a pension benefit, and a retirement benefit.

Claim 709. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving a request for information regarding an employee benefit in an employee benefits account, wherein the employee benefits account includes at least one of healthcare insurance, disability insurance, and life insurance, and at least one of a retirement benefit account and a pension benefit account;

processing the request for information regarding an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits account information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits account information comprises information regarding an employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a first employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship

with a second employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by a ~~current~~ the second employer pursuant to ~~an~~ the current employment relationship and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the ~~current~~ second employer;

generating a message in response to the request for information regarding an employee benefit, wherein the message contains a response to the request for information regarding an employee benefit; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, ~~an~~ the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 710. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit in an employee benefits account, wherein the employee benefits account includes at least one of healthcare insurance, disability insurance, and life insurance,



and at least one of a retirement benefit account and a pension benefit account;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits information comprises information regarding an employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a first employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with a second employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by ~~a-current~~ the second employer pursuant to ~~an~~ the current employment relationship and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the ~~current~~ second employer;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains a response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, ~~an~~ the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 711. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

receiving a request for employee benefit information;

processing the request for employee benefit information;

generating a second message in response to the request for employee benefit information; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device.

Claim 712. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 713. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

providing the employee benefit requested or claimed in the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 714. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for ~~an~~ the employee benefit or a second employee benefit or processing information regarding a subscription to an the employee benefit or to a second employee benefit.

Claim 715. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing a request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the request for a status of the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device.

Claim 716. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a healthcare insurance benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to a healthcare insurance benefit.

Claim 717. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a disability insurance benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to a disability insurance benefit.

Claim 718. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase of ~~an~~ second employee benefit or a change to ~~an~~ the employee benefit or to a second employee benefit.

Claim 719. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a healthcare insurance benefit.

Claim 720. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a disability insurance benefit.

Claim 721. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a life insurance benefit.

Claim 722. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefit associated with an employee is a pension benefit or a retirement benefit.

Claim 723. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information regarding at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a pension benefit, ~~and~~ a retirement benefit, an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee

discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, and a stock option benefit.

Claim 724. (Canceled)

Claim 725. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the communication device is at least one of a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a handheld computer, and a personal communication device.

Claim 726. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 727. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the communication device is a wireless device.

Claim 728. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the communication device is a kiosk.

Claim 729. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein at least one of the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web, and the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 730. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over an intranet.

Claim 731. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the processing device is at least one of a central processing unit, a computer in a network computer, a server computer, and an Internet server computer.

Claim 732. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefits information is at least one of automatically updated and updated in real-time.

Claim 733. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee is an independent contractor.

Claim 734. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding a purchase pursuant to an employee discount benefit or a buying service benefit.

Claim 735. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding a registration for a class or a course or processing information regarding a request for a tuition reimbursement.

Claim 736. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a selection of a primary care provider, a request for a referral authorization for a specialist, a status of a healthcare insurance claim, a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit,



a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a status of a disability insurance claim, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a status of a life insurance claim, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 737. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a placing of an order with a goods provider or a service provider, a registration with a goods provider or a service provider, a subscription to a goods provider or a service provider, and a status of a pending order.

Claim 738. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

providing information to ~~an~~ the second employer regarding a transaction between ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee and at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit provider, a disability insurance benefit provider, and a life insurance benefit provider.

Claim 739. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the processing device is linked to at least one of an employer computer, a healthcare insurance provider computer, a disability insurance provider computer, a life insurance provider computer, a credit union or banking services provider computer, a pension benefit provider computer, a retirement benefit provider computer, and an employee discount provider computer.

Claim 740. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

storing information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by a benefit provider, and information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit associated with at least one of the second an employer, or an the employee, and a second employee;

processing the information regarding the at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, with the information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit;

identifying a benefit provider for providing at least one of a benefit and benefit information for the requirement for a benefit or for the need for a benefit;

generating a second message containing information regarding the benefit provider, wherein the second message contains information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the second employer, the employee, and the second employee.

Claim 741. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains a link or a hyperlink to a computer associated with the processing device or to a benefit provider computer.

Claim 742. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits

account exists independently of ~~an~~ the previous employment relationship and the current employment relationship.

Claim 743. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information for pooling employees from ~~different~~ a plurality of employers to obtain employee benefits for the employees of the plurality of different employers.

Claim 744. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

providing information to a benefit provider regarding ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee who has upgraded a benefit or utilized at least one of a benefit offer, an employee discount benefit, and a buying service benefit.

Claim 745. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information for allowing ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee to utilize monies or credits provided by ~~an~~ the second employer to obtain an employee benefit from a benefit

provider, or processing information for allowing ~~an~~ the employee or a second employee to utilize funds provided by ~~an~~ the second employer to make a payment to a benefit provider.

Claim 746. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

processing information for allowing ~~an~~ the employee to create an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account exists independently of ~~an~~ the previous employment relationship and the current employment relationship, and further wherein the employee pays for or purchases a benefit in whole or in part with at least one of funds, monies, and credits, provided by ~~an~~ the second employer.

Claim 747. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a life insurance benefit or a providing ~~of~~ a payment pursuant to a life insurance benefit.

Claim 748. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

transmitting at least one of a benefit request form, a benefit information request form, a claim submission form, and a claim status form, to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with the at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 749. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of a pension benefit or a retirement benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to a pension benefit or a retirement benefit.

Claim 750. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message is contained in at least one of an electronic mail transmission, an electronic transmission, a facsimile transmission, a telephone call, a telephone message, a voice message, a pager message, and a beeper message.

Claim 751. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

utilizing at least one of an electronic power of attorney form, an electronic authorization, an electronic signature, and a digital signature, to file at least one of a medical claim form, a dental claim form, a healthcare claim form, an insurance claim form, a financial transaction form, a financial claim form, a goods order form or a service order form, and a benefit request form.

Claim 752. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 753. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

effectuating a payment pursuant to an employee benefit in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit.

Claim 754. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the computer-implemented method is utilized on or over a cable television network.

Claim 755. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit is transmitted from the communication device.

Claim 756. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefits information comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account is utilized by the employee to retain a benefit with a benefit provider independently of ~~an~~ the previous employment relationship and the current employment relationship.

Claim 757. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises at least one of vacation time benefit information, personal time benefit information, sick time benefit information, credit union benefit information, educational assistance benefit information, tuition reimbursement benefit information, employee discount benefit information, and buying service benefit information, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of at least one of a vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, a sick time benefit, a credit union benefit, an educational assistance



benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, an employee discount benefit, and a buying service benefit.

Claim 758. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 710, further comprising:

transmitting information regarding at least one of a change to a benefit, a change to a benefit account, an activity regarding a benefit account, an offering of a benefit, a posting of an offer to sell a benefit, an advertisement for a benefit, a posting of benefit information, a payment to a deferred income savings account or a pension account, and a payment of a benefit claim.

Claim 759. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving a request for an employee benefit or a claim for an employee benefit in an employee benefits account, wherein the employee benefits account includes at least one of healthcare insurance, disability insurance, and life insurance, and at least one of a retirement benefit account and a pension benefit account;

processing the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit with a processing device using employee benefits account information stored in a database or a memory device, wherein the employee benefits account information comprises information regarding an employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a first employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with a second employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by ~~a current~~ the second employer pursuant to ~~an~~ the current employment relationship and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the ~~current~~ second employer;

generating a message in response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit, wherein the message contains a response to the request for an employee benefit or the claim for an employee benefit; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a benefit beneficiary, ~~an~~ the second employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 760. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 759, wherein the employee benefits account information comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account is utilized by the employee to retain a benefit with a benefit provider independently of ~~an~~ the previous employment relationship and the current employment relationship.

Claim 761. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of Claim 759, wherein the message contains information regarding a providing of at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a pension benefit, a retirement benefit, vacation time benefit, a personal time benefit, and a sick time benefit, an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, or a providing of a payment pursuant to at least one of a healthcare insurance benefit, a disability insurance benefit, a life insurance benefit, a pension benefit, a retirement benefit, an educational assistance benefit, a tuition reimbursement benefit, and a credit union benefit.

Claim 762. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

storing employee benefits information in a database or a memory device;

detecting at least one of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package, wherein the benefit or the benefit package is not available to an employee or a benefit beneficiary in or pursuant to an employment relationship prior to the at least one of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package, wherein the at least one of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package, is automatically detected by a processing device in response to the at least one of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package;

generating a message containing information regarding the at least one of an offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package, wherein the message is automatically generated by the processing device upon the automatic detection of the at least one of an

offering of a benefit and a posting of an offer to sell a benefit or a benefit package; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with an employee or a benefit beneficiary.

Claim 763. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 764. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the communication device is at least one of a personal computer, a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant, a telephone, a handheld computer, and a personal communication device.

Claim 765. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 766. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the communication device is a wireless communication device.

Claim 767. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 768. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over an intranet.

Claim 769. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the employee benefits information is at least one of automatically updated and updated in real-time.

Claim 770. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 771. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of an allocation of pension funds among investment vehicles or options, a changing of an employee pension plan contribution, a filing of a pension benefit claim, a determination of a status of a pending pension benefit claim, an allocation of retirement funds among investment vehicles or options, and a changing of a contribution to a retirement account.

Claim 772. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the message is contained or transmitted in at least one of an electronic mail transmission, an electronic transmission, a facsimile transmission, a telephone call, a telephone message, a voice message, a pager message, and a beeper message.

Claim 773. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, wherein the message contains a link or a hyperlink to a computer associated with the processing device or to a benefit provider computer.

Claim 774. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, further comprising:

processing employee benefit information, wherein the employee benefit information comprises information regarding an employee benefit associated with an employee, wherein the employee benefit exists from a previous employment relationship with a first employer and is maintained by the employee in a current employment relationship with a second employer, wherein the employee benefit from the previous employment relationship is paid for or provided at least in part by a ~~current~~ the second employer pursuant to ~~an~~ the current employment relationship with the second employer and is included in employee benefits provided to the employee by the ~~current~~ second employer, and further wherein the employee benefit information comprises information regarding an individual benefits account, wherein the individual benefits account is utilized by the individual to retain a benefit with a benefit provider independently of an employment relationship.

Claim 775. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 762, further comprising:



storing information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider, and information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit associated with the employer or the employee;

processing the information regarding the at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, with the information regarding a requirement for a benefit or a need for a benefit;

identifying a benefit provider for providing at least one of a benefit and benefit information for the requirement for a benefit or for the need for a benefit;

generating a second message containing information regarding the benefit provider, wherein the second message contains information regarding at least one of a benefit, a benefit package, and a benefit pricing, provided by the benefit provider; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device.

Claim 776. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

storing employee benefit information in a database or a memory device;

detecting a posting of at least one of a need, a request, and a requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit package, wherein the benefit or the benefit package is not available to an employee or a benefit beneficiary in or pursuant to an employment relationship at the time of the posting of the at least one of a need, a request, and a requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit package, wherein the posting of at least one of a need, a request, and a requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit package is automatically detected by a processing device;

generating a message containing information regarding the posting of at least one of a need, a request, and a requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit package, wherein the message is automatically generated by the processing device upon the automatic detection of the posting

of at least one of a need, a request, and a requirement, to buy or to obtain a benefit or a benefit package; and

transmitting the message to a communication device associated with a benefit provider.

Claim 777. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 776, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device in real-time.

Claim 778. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 776, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Claim 779. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 776, wherein the message is transmitted to the communication device on or over an intranet.

Claim 780. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 776, wherein the employee benefit information is at least one of automatically updated and updated in real-time.

Claim 781. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 776, further comprising:

processing information regarding at least one of a purchase of a healthcare insurance benefit, a change in a healthcare insurance coverage, a purchase of a disability insurance benefit, a change in a disability insurance coverage, a purchase of a life insurance benefit, and a change in a life insurance coverage.

Claim 782. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises healthcare insurance benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a healthcare insurance benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 783. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises disability insurance benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a disability insurance benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at

least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 784. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises life insurance benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit

requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a life insurance benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 785. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises pension benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;



generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a pension benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 786. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises employee stock ownership benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is an employee stock ownership benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at

least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 787. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises stock option benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit

requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a stock option benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 788. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises educational assistance benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is an educational assistance benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 789. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises tuition reimbursement benefit information, and

further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a tuition reimbursement benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 790. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises credit union benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an

employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is credit union benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 791. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises profit sharing benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;



processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a profit sharing benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 792. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises employee discount program benefit information, and

further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is an employee discount program benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 793. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises buying service benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an

employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a buying service benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 794. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 544, wherein the employee benefits information further comprises retirement benefit information, and further wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

receiving a second request for an employee benefit or a second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is made by the employee or by a second employee pursuant to or under a second employee benefit;

processing the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit;

generating a second message in response to the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the second message contains at least one of information regarding a providing of the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit or a providing of a payment pursuant to the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit, wherein the employee benefit requested or claimed in the second request for an employee benefit or the second claim for an employee benefit is a retirement benefit; and

transmitting the second message to the communication device or to a second communication device associated with at least one of the employee, a second employee, the benefit beneficiary, the employer, and a benefit administrator.

Claim 795. (New) The computer-implemented method of Claim 661, wherein the employee benefits account further includes at least one of an educational assistance benefit, a

tuition reimbursement benefit, a credit union benefit, an employee discount program benefit, a buying service benefit, a stock option benefit, a profit sharing benefit, and an employee stock ownership benefit.